

REMARKS

Status of the claims:

With the above amendments, claims 2, 6, and 19-49 have been canceled and claims 1 and 51 have been amended. Thus, claims 1, 3, 5, 7-17, and 50-51 are pending and ready for further action on the merits. No new matter has been added by way of the above amendments. Claim 1 has been amended by the incorporation of the subject matter of claims 2 and 6. Claim 51 has been amended to change its dependency. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-3, 5, and 9-16 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by or in the alternative under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Boynton '982 (US Patent No. 6,520,982).

Applicant traverses.

Applicant has incorporated the subject matter of claims 2 and 6 into claim 1. Applicant believes that with these amendments that the rejections have been obviated as the Examiner has not rejected claim 6 in the above rejection. In particular, the Examiner acknowledges that Boynton '982 fails to disclose or suggest the feature that the cells constitute

epithelial cells in the case that the organ is cervix uteri. Thus, Boynton '82 fails to disclose all of the elements of the instantly claimed invention. Thus, Applicant believes that the rejection has been obviated. Withdrawal of the rejection is warranted and respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for acknowledging that claims 6-8, 17, 50, and 51 contain allowable subject matter. Applicant has amended the claims so that this allowable subject matter is in the independent claim 1 (from which all other claims directly or independently depend).

Thus, with the above remarks and amendments, Applicant believes that the claims, as they now stand, define patentable subject matter such that passage of the instant invention to allowance is warranted. A Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If any questions remain regarding the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative, T. Benjamin Schroeder (Reg. No. 50,990), in the Washington metropolitan area at the phone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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